



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 - PREMIER AND FINANCE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No.1 - Premier and Finance

**Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Gaming and Racing, Veterans, the
Central Coast, Medical Research (Harris)**

Hearing: Wednesday 25 February 2026

Answers due by: Responses due by 5.00 pm Tuesday 24 March 2026

Budget Estimates secretariat

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Questions from Hon Mark Latham MLC

- (1) After the Minister wrote to Albo Taylor at GWIC on 14 February 2025 asking 6 questions about Steve Griffin's appointment at Greyhound Racing NSW, what answers came back to each of the questions asked?

Questions from Hon Emma Hurst MLC
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Greyhound Racing

- (2) In relation to the US greyhound export program:
- (a) How many greyhounds have died since the program commenced? In relation to each death, please provide names and date of death.
 - (b) How many dogs have been sent to the US in total?
 - (c) How many have been rehomed to private homes?
 - (d) How many remain in the care and custody of US-based greyhound rehoming organisations, in kenneling facilities?
 - (e) How many died or have been euthanised after arriving in the US?
 - (f) How many greyhounds have been injured in connection with the US export program? Please provide names and details of dogs injured.
 - (g) What safety precautions have been put in place to reduce the number of deaths and injuries for dogs being exported to the US?
 - (h) Are Qantas and Air Canada currently the only airlines being used to export dogs to the US?
 - (i) Are any other airlines being used to transport dogs to the US? If so, please specify which ones
 - (j) What happened to Ryder, the dog found to have a grade 3-4 heart murmur but was still exported to the US? Please provide details regarding the decisions to export Ryder despite his condition, and his fate on arriving in the US.
 - (k) Please provide all details about what happened to Terry and Phillip, two dogs who were attacked by another dog after they arrived at LAX Airport in or around August 2023?

- (l) Please provide details of dog 'Blacky', a dog who bit so hard on the bars of the crate that he broke off a canine tooth, and advise his current condition
- (3) What is the status of the Greyhound Racing NSW's new Operating Licence, and when will it be finalised and issued?
 - (a) Is the NSW Government committed to making the new Operating Licence public once it has been issued?
- (4) When was the Minister first briefed about the incident involving Mr Shayne Stiff allegedly assaulting a dog at Wentworth Park?
- (5) Has the Minister seen the CCTV footage of the incident?
- (6) Has the Minister requested a copy of the CCTV footage of the incident – if not, why not?
- (7) I have been advised that, in 1997, Mr Stiff was convicted of 11 counts of fraudulently obtaining gaming chips – which he reportedly did not disclose to GRNSW when he applied for a bookkeeper's licence in 2005. Is GWIC aware of this information – if so, how did GWIC become aware?
 - (a) Has Mr Stiff disclosed these convictions on his subsequent bookkeeper registration applications to GWIC?
 - (b) If yes – why were these prior convictions which appear to involve 'dishonesty' not grounds to refuse his application?
 - (c) If no – is this something GWIC will look into further, given GWIC's policy regarding false and inaccurate information on applications?
 - (d) It was later discovered that Mr Stiff was dishonest when questioned about the convictions on his application in 2005. Mr Stiff told GRNSW that the convictions were not relevant as they were older than 10 years, despite them being from 1997. Has GWIC considered this further act of dishonesty in allowing him to retain a bookkeeper's licence?
- (8) What is the status of GRNSW's financial arrangements with Ladbrokes? Has the Minister or GWIC received any information around this – if so, please provide details?

- (9) Does the NSW Government have plans to provide any further taxpayer money to GRNSW as 'compensation' for Wentworth Park?
- (10) Is the NSW Government assisting GRNSW in any way to find an alternative Sydney track venue to replace Wentworth Park? If so, please provide details.
- (11) The Greyhound Racing Capital Grants Program requires grant recipients to submit a 60-day report following the completion of the specified work. Has the NSW Government received these 60-day reports from all grant recipients?
 - (a) Will the NSW Government commit to making these 60-day reports publicly available? If not, why not?
- (12) How many greyhounds are currently in the GAP NSW system and how many are on the wait list?
- (13) What steps have been taken (by both the Minister and GWIC) to ensure confidential information obtained from Mr Steve Griffin during his time at GWIC is not passed on to GRNSW?
- (14) When did GWIC first receive a draft or copy of the Drake report?
- (15) What progress has GWIC made in implementing the Ministerial Statement of Expectations following the Drake Inquiry report? Please outline specific actions taken.
- (16) The deceased body of a greyhound with the registered name of Blue Bouquet was recently dumped outside the RSPCA NSW Broken Hill shelter.
 - (a) Was this greyhound owned or in the care/custody of a GRNSW participant?
 - (b) Has GWIC investigated this incident – if so, what was the outcome? If not, why not?
- (17) Since 1 January 2026, Surgical Artificial Insemination became a prohibited procedure under the NSW Greyhound Racing Rules. How is GWIC monitoring adherence by industry participants?
- (18) Who are the current members of the GWIC Animal Welfare Committee?

- (19) Is GWIC going to commence publishing details of the Animal Welfare Committee's meetings – if so, when?
- (20) At the time the NZ Government announced a ban on greyhound racing, one NZ participant exported around 80 greyhounds to QLD. Have any of these dogs subsequently been sent to NSW?
- (a) If so, please provide details including names of the greyhounds.
 - (b) Have any been injured or killed on NSW tracks?
- (21) How and when does GWIC receive advice from Greyhounds Australasia about NSW dogs being exported overseas? What information does GWIC receive, and how often?

Harness Racing

- (22) Harness Racing NSW has introduced Local Rule 218 which states "A person must not, whilst driving or as a passenger in a motor vehicle, lead a horse directly from such motor vehicle in any manner including, but not limited to, by tethering a horse behind or to the side of a motor vehicle at any location, including a public or private registered training establishment."
- (a) How is this ban being monitored, especially on private land?
 - (b) Have any participants been investigated or suspended for breaching Local Rule 218, since it was introduced?
 - (c) When will the practice of using joggers be replaced with safer exercise/training practices?

Thoroughbred Racing

- (23) I refer to a recent Racing NSW case involving the suspension of a participant, Licensed Trainer Mr Jack Van Duren. Racing NSW has confirmed that an eight-year-old retired mare, Iz A Gem, was euthanised in the presence of a registered veterinarian. Racing NSW stated: "The method of euthanasia utilised is a widely accepted practice in respect of animal welfare standards. However, it was not conducted in accordance with the specific requirements prescribed

under the Racing NSW Local Rules, which formed part of the Stewards' investigation."

Can you advise if Iz A Gem was shot?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC <i>(on behalf of the Opposition)</i>

General Questions

CFMEU meetings

(24) Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

ETU meetings

(25) Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(26) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office?

Workforce Mobility Placement (WMP) Program

(27) Is your respective portfolio department(s)/agency(s) taking part in the WMP program?

(a) If yes, what department(s)/agency(s)?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(28) Do you have plans to print the 2025-26 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio?

(a) If yes, what is the budgeted expenditure for printing for each department / agency?

Information Access Self-Assessment Tool and the Privacy Self-Assessment Tool

- (29) As Minister, do you ensure that all your respective Department(s)/Agency(s) use the Information Access Self-Assessment Tool and the Privacy Self-Assessment Tool by the NSW Information and Privacy Commission?

Parliamentary Budget Office

- (30) In relation to 2023 ALP election policy costings made to the Parliamentary Budget Office, what costings have been successfully fulfilled and/or implemented in your Department(s)/Agency(s) since 28 March 2023?

State Records Act

- (31) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?
- (a) If yes, when?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

- (32) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?
- (a) If yes, is it available online?
- (b) If yes, what is the website URL?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

- (33) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?
- (a) If yes, what is the website URL?
- (34) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
- (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

- (35) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

Senior Executive Drivers

- (36) As at 1 February 2026, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Ministerial Offices

- (37) Does your Ministerial Office have a disclosure log in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009?

- (a) If yes, what is the URL?

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Departments/Agencies

- (38) What is the website URL for the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009 disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

TikTok

- (39) Are you on TikTok?

- (a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Signal

- (40) Are you on Signal?

- (a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?
(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

Mobile phone

- (41) Do you have a mobile phone paid for by your ministerial budget?

- (a) If yes, how many phones?

Communications and/or Media Training

- (42) Since 28 March 2023, have you had communications and/or media training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

- (a) If yes, what is the description of training?
- (b) If yes, how much?

Parliamentary Secretary & Ministerial Vehicle

- (43) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used a Ministerial driver from the pool?
- (a) If yes, why?

Media releases and statements

- (44) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>?
- (a) If no, why?

Overseas Travel

- (45) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

Data Breaches

- (46) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?
- (a) If yes, what is the website?

Discretionary Fund

- (47) As Minister, so you have a discretionary fund?
- (a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?
 - (b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

Airline Lounges

- (48) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?
- (49) Are you a member of the Virgin Beyond Lounge?

Ministerial Overseas Travel

(50) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally applied to the Premier to travel overseas?

(a) If yes, was this application accepted?

Private Jet Charter

(51) Have you travelled on a private jet charter in your ministerial capacity?

(a) If yes, was this value for money for taxpayers?

Ministerial Office renovations

(52) Since 28 March 2023, has your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place been renovated?

(a) If yes, how much was the expenditure?

Conflict of Interest

(53) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally written to the Premier with a conflict of interest?

(a) If yes, why?

Senior Executives

(54) In your respective portfolio department(s)/agency(s), to date, what has been the percentage reduction of senior public service executive numbers since 1 July 2023?

Sponsorship

(55) Does your respective portfolio department(s)/agency(s) provide sponsorship (incoming and outcoming) to organisations?

(a) If yes, where are the details of this sponsorship reported/registered?

Political fundraising

(56) Have you hosted a political fundraiser in your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place?

GAMING & RACING

Facial recognition technology in hotels and clubs

(57) When did the Minister instruct the department to open consultation on facial recognition in hotels and clubs?

(a) Why was this not done prior to the 30 June 2024 date?

(58) When was it determined that the date of 30 June 2024 was not achievable?

(a) Was this based on advice from the Department?

Roadmap to Gaming Reform

(59) Does the government aim to respond to the Independent Panel on Gaming Reforms recommendations by the end of financial year?

(60) Does the government aim to respond to the Independent Panel on Gaming Reforms recommendations by the end of 2026?

(61) What was the final total cost of the Independent Panel and their report?

(62) Is the government considering information outside of the recommendations made by the panel in their decision making?

(63) Is the government considering the Deloitte report commissioned by the Tasmanian Government into the social and economic impact of EGM reform?

Board of Racing NSW expenditure

(64) Did Racing NSW incur any cost for the attendance of a NSW Racing Director to attend the NRL Las Vegas football game?

(65) Have you requested and received a written brief from the Board of Racing New South Wales (RacingNSW) explaining the basis on which RacingNSW commenced, or is supporting, defamation proceedings against an industry publication, including why that use of resources is within RacingNSW statutory functions, and what conflict management steps were taken?

(a) Will you table the brief, the Board resolution, and the relevant delegations?

(66) What capital works are planned for regional thoroughbred racecourses?

- (67) Has RacingNSW confirmed whether any industry funds have been used, or are proposed to be used, to pay any legal costs (including any indemnity or reimbursement) connected with that defamation litigation?
- (a) What is the amount spent to date and the forecast total cost?
- (b) Will you table those figures and the authorisation for the expenditure?
- (68) What independent audit or external oversight, exists to scrutinise RacingNSW's retention, reserves policy and expenditure of industry-derived funds, and to test whether those funds are being applied and distributed in accordance with its statutory purpose and for the prosperity of thoroughbred racing, particularly when metropolitan, provincial and regional race clubs report acute funding pressure; and if no such independent process exists, will one be commissioned and published (including clear reporting on funds held, expenditure categories, reserve accumulation and distribution decisions)?
- (69) Since July 2025, how many vacancies have existed on the Board of the Australian Turf Club (ATC), what are the dates those vacancies arose, and what steps has the Minister taken (with dates) to progress the independent appointment process to fill them?
- (a) Has the Minister been asked by RacingNSW, or anyone acting for RacingNSW, to delay or not progress those appointments, and if so will you table any related communications?
- (70) Will the Minister undertake to release an unredacted version of the Hazzard Review when it is completed?
- (71) Why did the terms of reference for the Hazzard Review exclude examination of the funding model and the regulator's retention and distribution of industry-derived funds, despite widespread concern that the current arrangements are driving an acute funding crisis for metropolitan, provincial and regional race clubs; what advice, briefings or submissions informed that scope decision?
- (72) Were any representations made by RacingNSW (including by its board, Chief Executive, or officers) seeking to limit or exclude funding from the review (and if so, please identify them and provide the relevant records)?

- (73) What is the Chief Executive's agreed time commitment to RacingNSW, what concurrent external roles (including the National Rugby League) are formally disclosed to the board, and what conflict-of-commitment management measures are in place (including boundaries, delegations, recusals and ongoing monitoring)?
- (74) What policies and approvals govern the use of RacingNSW premises, hospitality and media-facing events, and what records show who has been hosted (including National Rugby League representatives) over the past twelve months, compared with access provided to racing industry participants?
- (75) On what basis and through what process did the board approve the most recent extension of RacingNSW Chief Executive's contract (including term, performance criteria/evidence relied upon, and any independent governance or remuneration advice obtained, particularly regarding conflict management and probity)?

Greyhound Racecourse Closures

- (76) What correspondence has occurred between the Minister's office and GRNSW about the closure of racecourses?
- (a) What dates and what are the contents of any correspondence regarding the closure of Greyhound racecourses?
- (b) Will the Minister table all correspondence to and from his office regarding the closure of Greyhound racecourses?

VETERANS

Federal sale of defence sites

- (77) What representations, discussions, briefings and other advocacy has the Minister had with the Federal Government in relation to the proposed sale of defence sites including Victoria Barracks and Lancer Barracks?
- (a) What is the NSW Government's position on these asset disposals?
- (b) What position is being put to the Federal Government?

(78) The Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing have expressed interest in acquiring some of these properties, including Victoria Barracks, for housing. Does the Minister agree with that position?

- (a) Has the Minister advocated to colleagues the interests and views of veterans in relation to the heritage and commemorative value of these sites? If so, how?

Local Government rate concession

(79) Is the Minister aware that approximately 35% of NSW war widows are being excluded from full council rate concessions on their veteran spouse's death?

- (a) How does this align with the Government's stated commitment to supporting veterans' families and war widows?
- (b) Has the Minister or the Office of Veterans advocated to the Minister for Local Government to rectify this situation by removing the income and assets test from Section 134 of the regulation?
- (c) Will the Minister commit to advocating with colleagues to review Section 134 with a view to restoring fairness and consistency for NSW war widows?

(80) How many war widows in NSW currently receive a partial or no local government rate concession due solely to failing the PCC test?

School enrolments

(81) In relation to the policy that commenced from Term 1, 2026 that allows the children of serving personnel to enrol in a NSW public school without a fixed address:

- (a) Has this rollout been a success and have there been any teething issues?
- (b) How many veterans have taken advantage of this policy to date?

THE CENTRAL COAST

Gosford and Wyong Hospitals

- (82) Gosford Hospital experienced a code yellow emergency in June 2025. Patients were treated in corridors. As Minister for the Central Coast:
- (a) When did you learn about it?
 - (b) What did you do when you learned about it?
- (83) In March 2023 you said the Government had "dropped the ball" on hospitals. The NSW NMA says cardiac, neurology, and oncology wards are severely short-staffed. Has the ball been picked up?
- (84) AMA NSW described the Jul-Sep 2025 results as "not healthcare - it's neglect." What additional health funding have you secured for the Central Coast?
- (85) What were the numbers of code yellow or equivalent emergency declarations at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals in each of the last three financial years.
- (86) Please provide the current nursing vacancy rate at Gosford and Wyong Hospitals, by ward.

High Speed Rail

- (87) Minister, the High Speed Rail Authority has confirmed a "Central Coast" station will supposedly be built by 2037, but the business case still lists the location generically.
- (a) Where exactly do you think a Central Coast high-speed rail station should be: Gosford, Tuggerah/Wyong, or another location?
 - (b) What evidence, business case, patronage modelling, or land-use planning advice are you relying on for that view?
 - (c) If you say you support a Central Coast station, what has the Minns Government planned for corridor protection, station precinct planning, and enabling infrastructure on the Central Coast – yes or no, and how much?
- (88) What involvement will the NSW Government have on deciding the location for HSR, or are you prepared to let the Federal Government decide the future of Central Coast transport without a settled NSW Government position?

(89) You have previously stated that Coast Labor MPs are "awaiting an announcement" on faster trains promised back in 2019. After seven years, with your Government in office for three years, is your only "progress" a \$60 billion cost increase and a map with a dot that doesn't have a name yet?

Illegal Tobacco Shops

(90) How many complaints or tip-offs regarding the sale of illicit tobacco on the Central Coast have been received by NSW Health's Centre for Regulation and Enforcement, and how many inspections have been conducted in that area since the closure order powers commenced?

(91) Closure orders have been issued in waves - with large batches in December 2025, January, February, and again on 19 February 2026 - yet the Central Coast has not featured in any of them. Is the absence of Central Coast enforcement the result of a deliberate prioritisation by NSW Health, a lack of inspector resources in the region, or an absence of verified complaints?

Berkeley Vale Ambulance Station

(92) Minister, how many ambulance stations does the Minns Government plan to deliver on the Central Coast?

(93) Minister, can you provide an update on the status of the Berkeley Vale Ambulance Station?

(94) Minister, have you raised the lack of progress on the Berkeley Vale Ambulance Station with the Minister for Health?

(95) When can we expect to see delivery of this ambulance station?

Kincumber Ambulance Station

(96) Minister, can you provide an update on the status of the Kincumber Ambulance Station?

(97) Land is yet to be acquired for Kincumber Ambulance Station, despite being prioritised by government as 'high priority'.

(98) Minister, have you raised the lack of progress on the Kincumber Ambulance Station with the Minister for Health?

(99) When can we expect to see delivery of this ambulance station?

Terrigal Drive Upgrade

(100) Minister, the Federal Government committed \$115 million for the upgrade of Terrigal Drive. In the latest State Budget, the budget references \$75 million for the upgrade. Where is the remaining \$40 million?

(101) The Federal Member for Robertson has publicly stated that the Federal funding for the upgrade has been provided to Transport for NSW. Can you confirm this is correct?

(102) Have you met with the Minister for Transport and the Federal Member to discuss the major road upgrade?

(103) Are you able to advise of a timeline of works for when planning will occur for this upgrade?

Avoca Drive

(104) With \$130 million committed for Avoca Drive, and \$3.4 million budgeted, when will construction begin and be completed?

(105) \$298,239 was committed to address potholes across the entire Central Coast. Council allocated \$8.1 million. Does your figure reflect the seriousness of the problem?

(106) Please provide a breakdown of the Budget allocation for the Avoca Drive upgrade in each of the next four financial years, and expected construction commencement and completion dates.

The Gosford Waterfront

(107) Minister, in October 2022 Labor promised \$8.5 million for a business case for Council's waterfront revitalisation of the marina, the ferry terminal, the amphitheatre, and the pedestrian bridge. It is now February 2026. Where is the business case?

(108) The Arup contract for the pathway design report was due 29 August 2025. It has been delayed five months and cost has blown out by \$133,496. Who authorised the additional expenditure?

- (109) Member for Gosford Liesl Tesch said on 17 July 2025: "After years of glossy plans with no certainty over what can be delivered." Your own colleague is conceding nothing has been delivered. What makes this time different?
- (110) Please provide a breakdown of the total expenditure from the \$8.5 million Gosford waterfront election commitment as at 31 December 2025, itemised by project and recipient.
- (111) Copy of the Arup Australia Pty Ltd contract for the Gosford-Point Clare pathway, including original and revised scope, budget, and delivery date.
- (112) Date the Gosford waterfront public domain plan will be finalised.

Ourimbah Creek PFAS

- (113) PFAS has been detected in the Ourimbah Creek catchment at up to 58 times the national drinking water guidelines. When were you first briefed, and what action did you take?
- (114) More than a dozen residents told the ABC they were not directly notified. Council issued a single media release. As Minister for the Central Coast, do you accept the notification was inadequate?
- (115) The pump feeding Ourimbah Creek water into Mardi Dam failed in August 2024-the same month PFAS monitoring began. Is there a connection?
- (a) When will the pump be repaired?
- (116) Please provide all PFAS monitoring results for the Ourimbah Creek catchment from August 2024 to date, by site, including exceedances of drinking water and ecological guidelines.
- (117) What was the date the Mardi Dam pump on Ourimbah Creek failed, and what is the expected repair or replacement date?

Mangrove Mountain Landfill

- (118) The EPA failed to enforce licence conditions for nearly two decades, allowing over 800,000 cubic metres of general waste where only 80,000 was approved. Have you raised these failures with the Environment Minister?

(119) Liesl Tesch has referred CEN's request for an independent inquiry to Minister Sharpe. Do you support it?

(120) Verde Terra received a \$30,000 fine for polluting waters beside a drinking water catchment serving 350,000 people. Is that an adequate penalty?

(121) Please provide the amounts of total waste volume deposited at Mangrove Mountain landfill, by year, compared with approved volumes.

Central Coast Strategic Conservation Plan

(122) The CCSCP will certify 1,800 hectares for development - removing up to 200 million native plants without further assessment. Did you advocate for a stronger conservation outcome?

(a) Council asked for an extension to January 2026. The Government gave three extra days. Is six weeks adequate for a 3,000-page, 30-year plan?

(123) The growth precincts at Somersby and Greater Lake Munmorah have no major public transport. How will residents get to work?

(124) Please provide the number of submissions received on the Draft CCSCP, broken down by position (support, oppose, conditional).

(125) What is the total estimated biodiversity offset cost under the CCSCP and the source of offset funding?

Homelessness

(126) Informal settlements are forming across the Coast. Social housing waits exceed a decade. What Central Coast-specific commitments have you secured?

(127) 21.4% of rough sleepers on the Coast are children or young people. The Homelessness Strategy has no Central Coast targets. Will you push for a dedicated action plan?

(128) What is the number of social housing dwellings on the Central Coast as at 30 June 2025, and the average wait time by allocation zone?

Operation Soteria

(129) Operation Soteria deployed 150+ police to tackle juvenile crime. The Central Coast was excluded despite a public forum with the police minister. Did you advocate for inclusion?

(130) The Government voted down curfews and electronic monitoring for repeat youth offenders. Why shouldn't Central Coast families have those protections?

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Advice MRFF

(131) When was that advice provided to the Minister?

- (a) On what date was the brief submitted?
- (b) Was it provided before or after the most recent MRFF funding round?
- (c) Was it before or after the Commonwealth's most recent disbursement announcement?

(132) Was the advice recommending that the Minister formally advocate for increased MRFF disbursement?

(133) Did the advice recommend writing to the Commonwealth Minister?

(134) Did it recommend raising the issue at National Cabinet or Health Ministers' meetings?

(135) Was the advice to review the MRFF allocation formula, or simply monitor performance?

(136) What action has the Minister taken in response to that advice?

- (a) Has a letter been sent to the Commonwealth? If so, what date?
 - i. If Not: When will that communication be sent?
 - ii. Has a draft letter been prepared?
 - iii. If so, is it waiting Ministerial Approval?

(b) Has the issue been Raised in Intergovernmental Forums?

(137) Levesque referenced "Significant under-allocation" in the Hearings."

- (a) What Data supports the claim of "Significant under-allocation?"

- (b) What is NSW's expected share based on population or grant performance?
- (c) Has NSW calculated what it should receive under a proportional model?
- (d) If it is national under-allocation, what is NSW doing to push for increased overall disbursement?

(138) "If the Department has provided advice to advocate for increased MRFF disbursement, can you outline precisely what advocacy action the Minister has taken to date?"

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

US export program

(139) Will GWIC have any oversight of the transition from Hanrob to JetPets for the Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) US export program, in terms of what will happen to the Wyee facility and other Hanrob operated facilities?

(140) Last year in the September Budget Estimates I asked about why GWIC doesn't even have oversight of the number of greyhounds that die in connection to the program, and was advised that "The Commission has requested this information and is currently investigating options for system integration with GRNSW to improve data sharing and reporting in relation to greyhound rehoming." Has this progressed at all since then?

(141) Another question that I have asked about previously but was advised is a matter for GRNSW is information about the 179 trainers and owners charged in 2016 for breaching the industry regulator's rules, for the alleged unauthorised exports of dogs to Macau. There have been some concerns raised that some of these individuals may have continued or recommenced as GRNSW participants in NSW or transferred to other Australian states or territories. Is this something that GWIC is able to request from GRNSW?

- (a) If no, does GWIC believe that it should have oversight of things like this, given the implications for welfare and integrity?

Hot weather policy

(142) GWIC has confirmed that in contrast to Racing Victoria, it has no policy about the temperatures that greyhounds can be walked in. Why not?

(a) Is there any intention to introduce such a policy?

(143) Mr Tutt advised in the hearing that the draft documentation concerning the maximum racing temperature has been authored by veterinary practitioners. Were these veterinary practitioners external to the racing industry, or internal?

(a) What is the timeline for GWIC's review of the maximum racing temperature?

Capital Grants Program

(144) How many total applications have been received under the program since it was established in 2017?

(a) Of those, how many have been approved, how many were not approved, and how many have not yet been determined?

(145) Are you confident that all of the tracks receiving funding under this grant program are compliant with the minimum standards?

(a) What about compliance with the code of practice, and compliance with other animal welfare standards?

(b) How has the Office of Racing been assessing projects to determine whether they are compliant with the code? Is GWIC involved in this?

(146) GRNSW was allocated \$32,692 for Broken Hill, approved in March 2022. It was also allocated \$75,400 for Maitland, approved in December 2021. Given that it has recently been announced that both of these tracks will be closing by 2026, will GRNSW be required to repay any of this public funding to the Government?

(147) GRNSW has confirmed plans for a 10-dog straight track to be built concurrently with the Goulburn circle track upgrade, a 10-dog straight track to be built in Tamworth, and projects at Grafton and Richmond. Can you confirm how much funding the Government has allocated for any of these projects, and for what purposes?

(a) On what date was funding approved for each project?

Lithgow greyhound racing track rebuild

- (148) In mid 2025 the NSW government allocated \$3,272,150 million to GRNSW for the Lithgow greyhound track rebuild. The DA documents submitted by GRNSW for this rebuild confirm the project cost is \$1,413,866 million. Where is the balance of \$1,858,284 million of this public money being spent?
- (149) The DA documents confirm the rebuild is limited to seeking planning consent for the judges tower, new broadcasting infrastructure, guttering, removing asbestos, and a new maintenance shed. Can you confirm there are no rebuild plans for the actual track or track kennels for the dogs?
- (a) Can you then advise the exact nature of the current extensive work being undertaken on the actual Lithgow track?
 - (b) What is being changed with the track?
- (150) The Lithgow track rebuild is an Integrated Planning development. I understand that all NSW integrated planning proposals are supposed to be publicly exhibited for 28 days, however it appears that the DA may have only been exhibited for a lesser period of days. Can you confirm the start and end public exhibition time period for the Lithgow rebuild DA?
- (151) When the Minister announced the public money capital grant for the Lithgow rebuild, he confirmed in the media that the rebuild would improve greyhound safety and welfare. Can the Minister advise how precisely the Lithgow rebuild will improve greyhound safety and welfare?
- (152) According to the DA documents, there is some asbestos in the track's dog kennels. While the known asbestos is to be removed from the judges tower, why isn't it being removed from the dog kennels?
- (a) Are the Lithgow track kennels compliant with NSW animal welfare standards?
 - (b) In regards to all other NSW greyhound track kennels still being used, including those at tracks scheduled to close, how many are compliant with NSW animal welfare standards?

(153) In a past website listing the Lithgow Greyhound Racing Club offered overnight boarding of greyhounds for GRNSW participants. The existing Lithgow track raceday kennels would have been previously approved only as raceday kennels. How can overnight boarding be allowed?

- (a) How often was overnight boarding undertaken at the Lithgow track?
- (b) Do other NSW greyhound tracks undertake overnight boarding? If yes, can you please confirm which ones?

Rehoming greyhounds

(154) What role does GWIC have in overseeing the closure of greyhound racing tracks by GRNSW, in terms of monitoring the rehoming of greyhounds to ensure that they are not being discarded by participants?

- (a) Does GWIC monitor this with a particular focus when tracks close and large numbers of greyhounds are needing to be rehomed?

(155) This has been an ongoing issue, but has been spoken about in the media recently. The president of the Broken Hill Greyhound Racing Club has said that most of the greyhounds in Broken Hill were not competitive enough to be sold to other trainers, and GRNSW CEO Mr Steve Griffin is in the media saying the majority of the greyhounds that end up at Broken Hill had been given away by other trainers and were at the end of their careers and will end up being sent 1,000 kilometres away to GAP's Londonderry centre in Sydney. What is GWIC doing to make sure these greyhounds are properly rehomed?

- (a) How many greyhounds are there in the Broken Hill region?
- (b) Mr Griffin has said there are 200 greyhounds who may need rehoming. Is this accurate?
- (c) Do the GAP facilities have capacity to take in this many greyhounds? What is GWIC doing to make sure they don't end up as wastage?
- (d) How many greyhounds are affected by each of the other tracks being closed including Coonamble, Kempsey, Moree, Potts Park, Tamworth, Wauchope, Young, Maitland and Wagga Wagga?

Greyhound dumped at RSPCA Broken Hill shelter

(156) The body of a dead greyhound was dumped outside the RSPCA Broken Hill shelter, which was found to have been a registered racing greyhound. What is GWIC doing about this?

- (a) Can you confirm the name of the greyhound and whether they were in the care of a racing participant at the time of being dumped?

Greyhounds being raced with leg fractures

(157) Is GWIC aware of any instances where greyhounds with leg fractures are being forced to race again when their injuries have still not healed?

- (a) How is GWIC overseeing this matter and monitoring compliance with the rules to ensure greyhounds are not returning to racing before having healed from injuries sustained on tracks?

Taree track

(158) GRNSW continues to describe Taree as a “super track” and one of the state’s safest tracks, which is just simply untrue. In 2025, Taree was NSW’s deadliest track with three on-track deaths, as well as another three dogs who suffered broken legs and later died away from the racetrack. What is being done to address this failure of a track?

(159) Just recently, a young greyhound called Effie died after suffering extreme leg injuries while racing at Taree. Effie’s fall was quickly removed from the racing video footage, however my office has received and seen the footage. This regularly happens at other tracks. Is GWIC concerned about footage being edited and removed so quickly by GRNSW to conceal the reality of what happens to many dogs on NSW tracks?

(160) The Taree track was described as a “centre of excellence” and received a \$6 million upgrade a few years ago. The Drake Inquiry heard that the track had been built without a safety rail, with two dogs dying from skull or spinal injuries. Even when the safety rail was eventually installed, it is still not compliant with the minimum track standards. How is this acceptable?

New Zealand greyhounds

(161) In the August/September 2025 Budget Estimates I asked questions about the reported 80 greyhounds exported from New Zealand to QLD, Australia by a NZ participant. There are reports that at least 2 of those greyhounds have since been sent to NSW. GWIC advised that it was unaware of these greyhounds. Is this still the case?

(a) Has GWIC or the Office of Racing undertaken any investigation to determine whether any of these greyhounds were sent to NSW and are now racing here?

(b) If no, will you commit to doing so?

(162) Has GWIC received any applications to date regarding registering participants, breeders or greyhounds who were formerly registered in New Zealand?

Veterinary practitioner misconduct

(163) How many times has GWIC taken steps to prosecute a veterinary practitioner, rather than refer it to the Veterinary Practitioners Board (VPB), in each of the last ten years?

Back to back breeding

(164) Given that breeding tracking relies on participants self-reporting to GWIC which is not guaranteed to happen in all cases, does GWIC do any specific monitoring of the breeding of female greyhounds to ensure no back to back breeding?

(165) How does GWIC verify the accuracy of breeding self-reports by participants?

(166) How many breaches of the Greyhound Racing Rules (R59 and LR58A) has GWIC recorded, across each year?

Missing greyhounds

(167) In the September 2025 Budget Estimates, I asked about missing greyhounds and GWIC advised that 11 individuals were formally charged with breaches of the Greyhound Racing Rules and investigations into the whereabouts of their 34 greyhounds are ongoing. What is the status of these investigations?

(a) Is there any update on locating these 34 greyhounds?

GRNSW commercial arrangements with GAP NSW dogs

(168) Is GWIC aware of how many GAP NSW dogs are being housed with GRNSW participants and where?

(169) Who is monitoring the welfare of these dogs?

GWIC 'Race Well' app

(170) GWIC'S 'Race Well' smartphone app is described and marketed by GWIC as "using cutting-edge technology to inform and protect NSW greyhound racing participants". Why is the purpose of the app not to protect greyhounds?

(171) When was the app first introduced and how much public money went towards its development and implementation?

(172) How is the success of the app measured, and has there been a reduction in drugging offences?

(173) Can GWIC determine how often the app is accessed by GRNSW participants, and if so, what is the access rate for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

Formal GIPA applications

(174) How many formal GIPA applications are currently being processed by GRNSW and GWIC?

(175) How many formal GIPA applications have been refused by GRNSW and GWIC in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

(176) How many formal GIPA applicants have appealed refusal decisions by GRNSW and GWIC through the NSW Information and Privacy Commission in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

Sexual violence in the hospitality industry

(177) Can you please provide an update on the RSA sexual violence prevention training content?

(178) How many workers have now completed the training content?

- (a) How many of these were new workers getting their RSA for the first time?
 - (b) How many of these were through the 5 year refresher course?
- (179) Is this content now mandatory in all RSA refresher courses for existing RSA card holders?
- (180) What is being done to monitor the progress and impact of this?
- (181) How is the government ensuring that the training is being delivered in a trauma-informed way?
- (182) Does the RSA training include anything on equipping all levels of staff to refer victim-survivors to appropriate support?
- (183) Can you explain the licensee training changes, including how this differs from the ordinary RSA content for all hospo workers?
- (184) Though this is important work, training alone will not actively prevent sexual violence in the hospitality industry, especially when it is perpetrated by workers in the industry against other workers. What is the government doing beyond this to address the longstanding cultural problems within the hospitality industry?
- (185) How is the Ask for Angela program being monitored to evaluate its success and whether any changes are needed?

Questions from Ms Cate Faerhmann MLC

Roadmap on Gaming Reform

- (186) How common is the use of loyalty accounts with gaming machines?
- (a) How many players use them?
 - (b) How many venues offer them?
 - (c) How many machines are capable of using them?
- (187) Is there any evidence that using loyalty accounts is associated with high risk gambling?
- (188) Are you satisfied with the current operation and rules for gaming loyalty accounts?

(189) Does the Minister see benefit to reviewing how loyalty programs work?

- (a) Will this form part of the government's response to recommendation 3.1 from the Roadmap for Gaming Reform?

Research into the timing of gaming machine shutdown periods

(190) Has the department commissioned research into shutdown periods longer than 6 hours?

(191) When the department stated that "there is no evidence that suggests a break in gambling needs to be longer than six hours to have a significant impact" did that mean they had reviewed evidence for longer shutdown periods which demonstrated no additional benefit, or were they unable to find any research related to longer breaks?

- (a) If so, please provide a list of the research.

(192) What evidence did the department rely upon to recommend keeping the start of the gaming machine shutdown at 4am, rather than matching the Productivity Commission's recommendation of 2am?

Roadmap on Gaming Reform

(193) How will trials of "identity play" be managed?

- (a) Will venues be given responsibility for overseeing the trials or will there be independent oversight?
- (b) If there is going to be independent oversight, is the Independent Panel on Gaming Reform being reconvened? If not, who will provide the independent oversight?